

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Chair Stamsta called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Duane Stamsta (Chair), Andy Kallin, Bill Kramer, and Sandy Wolff.

Absent: Joe Griffin, Rob Hutton, and Jim Jeskewitz.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Oconomowoc Citizens Ned and Jean Wilkinson, Mary Smith, Client Services Specialist Judy Roehm, Social Worker Michelle Pike, Benefit Specialist Sharon Gold-Johnson, Office Manager Pat Popowski, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares, and Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke.

Public Comments

Citizen Ned Wilkinson spoke against the Aurora proposal. His father was a doctor who was heavily involved with starting Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital years ago. He feels the addition of the Aurora facility in Oconomowoc has many health care implications that need to be looked at carefully including health care cost increases. He said collaboration between Aurora and Oconomowoc Memorial is vital. He asked that the County Board defer this issue until a mediator and the two parties can address these issues.

Approve Minutes of 1-27-05

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Wolff to approve the minutes of January 27. Motion carried 4-0.

Read Correspondence

Stamsta distributed copies of a letter to State Health & Family Services Secretary Helene Nelson from Governor Jim Doyle regarding providing services to autistic children and the Governor's taskforce recommendations. Esler said this could be the issue of a future agenda item if reimbursement is to be limited to evidence-based treatment that is shown to be beneficial based on clinical trials or single subject design experiments published in peer reviewed journals.

Esler referred to his handout, a letter to Bill Weber of the Waukesha County Juvenile Center from the State Department of Corrections detailing the findings of the 2004 annual inspection of the Center. The inspection resulted in no major concerns or deficiencies.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting committee meeting is scheduled for February 24th and will be combined with the Health & Human Services Board. Esler said one agenda item will be to review and accept the 2004 annual report of the Veterans' Services Department.

Announcements

Esler announced there will be a County Board meeting on February 22nd.

Esler said the Iraqi Freedom memorial stones are located outside the main entrance of the Courthouse for anyone interested.

Chair's Executive Committee Report of 1-31-05

Stamsta advised of the following issues discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting.

- Reviewed Internal Audit's most recent unannounced cash counts report. One issue was with Moor Downs and that they need to deposit cash more frequently. Other registers have improved dramatically over the last two years.
- Approved the various ordinances and appointments that were included in the last yellow packet.
- Rob Hutton was selected to fill Hank Carlson's seat on the County Board and he will also serve on the Health & Human Services Committee.

Presentation and Update on Senior Services Department Programs

Senior Services Department staff were present to give an educational presentation on Senior Services programming. Staff distributed copies of the 2005 Senior Sources Directory and brochures listing the variety of programs offered to meet the needs of older adults in Waukesha County. Smith noted the majority of their programs are funded by the Older Americans Act. Grants and tax levy are also used to fund services. Most services are offered based on ability to pay or donations are suggested.

Pike explained that the Information and Assistance Unit receives all calls into the department from people requesting services and assistance or those just looking for information on what's available in Waukesha County. In 2004, staff took just under 50,000 phone calls. The department advocates for older adults and staff determine what they may or may not be eligible for. Information on services is also available on the Internet. Stamsta complimented the site and felt it was one of the better ones. Pike said the department also collaborates with area non-profit agencies for certain services.

Pike said the Caregiver Support Program was established as part of the Older Americans Act and provides information and assistance specifically for caregivers. This includes training programs and respite care. The department also has an extensive library which includes video and audio tapes, books, medication monitors, etc. The Grandparenting Program offers support, services, counseling, and outings for grandparents who are raising grandchildren. Fees for the Homemaker Services Program is based on a person's income and assets. Workers will perform an array of services from housecleaning to running errands.

Roehm discussed the six adult day care centers for older adults located in various areas of the County. Many of these clients suffer from dementia or memory loss and stimulation from these day programs may even slow the process. This service is offered on a sliding fee scale and is based on income. These facilities are much more cost effective than nursing home facilities.

Roehm explained the Specialized Transportation Services Program which include the Taxi Program, Rideline Program, and the ADA Parallel Corridor Paratransit Service. Eligibility, fares, service availability, and areas served vary depending on the program / service. Roehm

said the biggest concern among many clients is getting into Milwaukee County for certain medical services they can't receive in Waukesha County. Rideline, while a very needed program, is the most expensive. The Taxi Programs are the most cost effective.

Smith said the Senior Services Department is the lead reporting agency for elder abuse which can include physical abuse, material abuse, neglect by others, and self-neglect. Staff work with Health & Human Services Department staff who investigate the reports. In 2004, there were 45 reports of elder abuse and of those, 16 or 36% were substantiated. Most of these cases were material or financial abuse. The department has seen a big increase in hoarding cases and elder abuse grant funds are being used to treat this compulsive disorder.

Gold-Johnson discussed her job as Benefit Specialist. She helps older adults who are having problems with their private or government benefits by cutting through the "red tape" of the various federal, state, and county systems. The Benefit Specialist can help with health care financing such as Medicare, and billing problems with medical providers; income maintenance such as social security / disability, SSI, and food stamps; housing such as landlord / tenant issues, and homestead tax credit; surrogate decision making such as advance directives / power of attorney; consumer / finance issues such as unfair sales practices, unfair collection practices, and fraud; elder rights including disability issues and nursing home rights; as well as legal and benefit problems and reverse mortgage counseling.

Smith went on to discuss their Volunteer Services Program. The department currently has 700 volunteers, about 500 of whom help out in the Nutrition Program. Volunteers are invaluable to the department and having enough has been and will continue to be a struggle.

Smith explained the Nutrition Program. Anyone over the age of 60 is eligible to eat at a senior dining center – also known as the Congregate Meal Program. There are currently 12 senior dining centers throughout the county. To be eligible for the Home Delivered Meals Program, individuals must be 60 or older, homebound, and unable to drive. Limited government grants cover part of the meal costs and donations are suggested for both Congregate and Home Delivered. In 2004, about 67,000 congregate and 93,000 home delivered meals were served. Smith said Waukesha County is one of the few counties in the state that has a growing congregate meal program.

Clinical Division Services / Fiscal Billing Update

DeMares distributed information on the Clinical Services Division including their mission statement, total 2005 budget, and services offered. The division provides a comprehensive mental health and alcohol and other drug service delivery system consistent with State Statute requirements and applicable state and federal certification regulations. These services provide for the protection and safety of individuals and their families who are in need of specialized clinical interventions resulting from an identified mental health need or involvement with alcohol or other drugs.

DeMares said in the last 5 years, admissions to the Mental Health Center have increased about 5.8%. In 2004, about 4,300 clients were served by the outpatient clinic. This includes the Medication Program for psychotropic drugs whereby clients can receive samples and they can

receive drug company discounts. DeMares advised that the outpatient AODA clinic served 1,300 clients in 2004. This does not include those in residential programs and halfway houses.

Kutz distributed copies of brochures given to clients coming into the facility which outline payment for services for those who don't have insurance. Services are provided on an ability to pay basis whereby full financial disclosure is required. He discussed fee determination and calculations. He went on to review Clinical Services Division accounts receivables for 2002 through February of 2005 as outlined in his handouts. Financially, the division is doing well and Kutz did not anticipate any future financial problems although nothing, of course, can be certain.

DeMares referred to a four-year work plan that was developed with Milwaukee County to increase crisis services in both counties. Earlier last year, an opportunity arose to go in with another county and apply for a \$500,000 state grant to increase services. Milwaukee and Waukesha counties will receive grant funds; not the full \$500,000 for the first year but they will receive the full amount for the three following years. DeMares said they will initially focus on increasing awareness, developing more peer counseling (clients helping each other), and mental health issues involving children. They will also focus on law enforcement training. Milwaukee County has begun to train their police department on how to better handle crises which involve individuals with mental health issues. Milwaukee is also in the process of developing a crisis / respite center for the developmentally disabled whereby Waukesha County would have access.

Discuss Mental Health as it Relates to the Criminal Justice System

DeMares said certain Clinical Services staff members, including a psychiatrist, work with jail staff on identifying those individuals who have mental health issues and need to be reintegrated into the community. In some instances, individuals are released from the jail and are admitted into the Mental Health Center. However, DeMares said they do not provide direct clinical services within the jail and instead, they coordinate with jail staff.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Kallin to adjourn at 3:52 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Kallin
Secretary